

Listing of the Claims

1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) An object monitoring system, including:

a first transmitter for transmitting a first ID; and

a portable transceiver module having a receiver for receiving the first ID to electronically associate the first transmitter with the transceiver module by generating a first stored ID in a memory;

wherein the first transmitter remains associated with the transceiver module as the transceiver module is moved from a first position to a second position.

22. (Previously Presented) An object monitoring system, including:

a first transmitter for transmitting a first ID; and

a transceiver module having a receiver for receiving the first ID to electronically associate the first transmitter with the transceiver module by generating a first stored ID in a memory;

wherein the transceiver module indicates an alarm condition by comparing the first ID to the first stored ID.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the alarm condition occurs when the first ID does not match the first stored ID.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the transceiver module further includes a processor for comparing the first ID to the first stored ID.

25. (Previously Presented) An object monitoring system, including:

a first transmitter for transmitting a first ID; and

a transceiver module having a receiver for receiving the first ID to electronically associate the first transmitter with the transceiver module by generating a first stored ID in a memory;

wherein the first ID has an associated energy level, the transceiver module indicating an alarm condition by comparing the energy level to a threshold value.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25 further including a comparator for comparing the energy level to the threshold value.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25 wherein the transceiver module further includes a processor for determining the energy level and evaluating whether the energy level is below the threshold value.

28. (Previously Presented) An object monitoring system, including:
a first transmitter for transmitting a first ID;
a transceiver module having a receiver for receiving the first ID to electronically associate the first transmitter with the transceiver module by generating a first stored ID in a memory; and
a second transmitter for transmitting a second ID, the transceiver module receiver receiving the second ID to electronically associate the second transmitter with the transceiver module and the first transmitter by generating a second stored ID in the memory.
29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28 wherein the second transmitter includes a receiver and an alarm, the transceiver module transmitting an alarm signal to the second transmitter receiver upon failure of a preset condition, the second transmitter responding to the alarm signal by activating the alarm.
30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28 wherein the transceiver module activates an alarm when the first and the second transmitters are separated by more than a preset distance.
31. (Previously Presented) An object monitoring system, including:
a first transmitter for transmitting a first ID; and
a transceiver module having a receiver for receiving the first ID to electronically associate the first transmitter with the transceiver module by generating a first stored ID in a memory;
wherein the transceiver module activates an alarm when the first transmitter is separated from the transceiver module by more than a preset distance.
32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28 wherein the transceiver module activates an alarm only when both the first and the second transmitters are separated from the transceiver module by more than a preset distance.
33. (Previously Presented) An object monitoring system, including:
a first transmitter for transmitting a first ID;
a transceiver module having a receiver for receiving the first ID to electronically associate the first transmitter with the transceiver module by generating a first stored ID in a memory; and
a controller, the transceiver module wirelessly transmitting messages to the controller, the messages including an indication of receipt of the first ID.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33 wherein the controller receives messages from a plurality of transceiver modules, the controller determining a location of the transmitter and the locations of the transceiver modules from the messages.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34 wherein the controller includes a processor for determining the locations of the transmitter and the transceiver modules.

36. (Previously Presented) An object monitoring system, including:
a first transmitter for transmitting a first ID;
a transceiver module having a receiver for receiving the first ID to electronically associate the first transmitter with the transceiver module by generating a first stored ID in a memory; and
an actuator connected to the transceiver module, the actuator being actuated upon an indication by the transceiver module of an alarm condition.

37. (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring objects including the steps of:

transmitting a first ID signal from a first transmitter corresponding to a first object;
receiving the first ID signal at a transceiver module;
associating the first transmitter with the transceiver module by storing a first ID corresponding to the first ID signal;
comparing the first ID signal to the first ID to determine whether a preset condition is satisfied; and
signaling an alarm when the preset condition is not satisfied.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 further including the step of:

determining an energy level of the first ID signal, the preset condition including a condition wherein the energy level is greater than or equal to a preset energy level.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 further including the steps of:

transmitting a second ID signal from a second transmitter corresponding to a second object;
associating the second transmitter with the first transmitter and the transceiver module by storing a second ID corresponding to the second ID signal; and

comparing the second ID signal to the second ID to determine whether the preset condition is satisfied.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 further including the steps of:

receiving at the second transmitter an alarm signal transmitted from the transceiver module when the preset condition is not satisfied; and

activating an alarm indicator at the second transmitter upon receipt of the alarm signal.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the preset condition includes a condition wherein the first transmitter is within the preset distance from the transceiver module.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 further including the steps of:

transmitting messages from the transceiver module to a controller, the messages including an indication of receipt by the transceiver module of the first ID signal; and

determining the location of the first transmitter from the messages.

43. (Previously Presented) An object monitoring system including:

a plurality of transmitters corresponding to objects to be monitored, the transmitters each transmitting a respective, unique ID;

a plurality of transceiver modules, each transceiver module including a receiver for receiving IDs from the transmitters to associate with the transceiver module the transmitters from which IDs are received and to associate the transmitters from which IDs are received with one another by storing IDs corresponding to the received IDs; and

a central processing unit for receiving messages from the transceivers including IDs of the transmitters for determining locations of the transmitters.